

Message Text

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ACTION AID-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 IGA-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /015 W

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P 101215Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 39

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT

SUBJECT: CWR OPERATIONS PLANNING WORKSHOP

FOR AID, ADAMS AND BROWN; AF, EASUM AND LOUGHRAM

REF: STATE 121725

1. I BELIEVE THE PROPOSED WORKSHOP IS AN EXCELLENT
IDEA AND I INTEND TO PARTICIPATE.

2. I AM TO SAY THE LEAST STARTLED TO FIND THAT A CDO
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR MALI AND HAS BEEN INVITED TO
ATTEND THE WORKSHOP WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION WITH ME.
I HAD THOUGHT FOLLOWING OUR PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS ON
THIS SUBJECT AND MY RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON
THAT IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MY CONCURRENCE
WOULD BE SOUGHT ON ANY SENIOR AID OFFICIAL ASSIGNED TO
THIS EMBASSY. I MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND
THAT MY CONCURRENCE WAS A MERE FORMALITY. I FEEL
PARTICULARLY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS IN THE CASE OF THE CDO
WITH WHOM, AS I HAVE STATED EARLIER, I INTEND TO WORK IN
THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE MANNER. IN SPITE OF WHAT I THOUGHT
WAS A CLEAR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT, I NOW
FIND

THAT A MR. LEVIN,
ABOUT WHOM I KNOW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

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INCLUDING EVEN HIS FIRST NAME, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED THE

CDO OF MALI AND IS INTENDED TO REPRESENT THE AID SECTION OF THIS EMBASSY IN WHAT I WOULD HOPE TO BE A SEMINAL WORKSHOP FOR OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES HERE.

3. IN ALL CANDOR, I MUST SAY THAT I AM SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL AS TO THE NEED FOR ANOTHER SENIOR AID OFFICIAL AS CDO IN BAMAKO. BASED UPON A RELATIVELY SHORT BUT CAREFUL OBSERVATION OF HIS WORK, I THINK AND WAS INTENDING TO SUGGEST THAT MR. ROUSSEL IS QUITE CAPABLE OF BEING CDO HERE. HE AND I HAVE ESTABLISHED WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE A WORKING RELATION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST. WHY IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO IMPOSE A SUPERVISOR IN ADDITION TO ME OVER HIM IS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT. I RECOGNIZE HOWEVER THAT AID HAS ITS OWN IMPERATIVES AND I AM NOT DISPOSED TO CONTEST THEM.

4. I DO REQUEST HOWEVER AN IMMEDIATE COMMUNICATION INFORMING ME WHO MR. LEVIN IS AND SOME INFORMATION ON HIS BACKGROUND, AND ALSO THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT TO BAMAKO NOT BE EXECUTED UNTIL MY CONCURRENCE THERETO HAS BEEN RECEIVED. EQUALLY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT THAT A DECISION ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE NIAMEY WORKSHOP BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL HIS ACCEPTABILITY HERE HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED. IN ANY EVENT WHOEVER HE IS AND WHATEVER MY FINAL DETERMINATION MAY BE GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE HAS HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN MALI AND THAT MR. ROUSSEL HAS VERY EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED WIDE CONTACTS AND IS FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION HERE, I WOULD HOPE THAT AID/WASHINGTON WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO INVITE MR. ROUSSEL TO THE NIAMEY WORKSHOP.
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